

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044690
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY E:BWMILLER:PB
APPROVED BY E:RNCOOPER
S/S - PSHANKLE
ARA - MR. GRUNWALD
EB - JULIUS L. KATZ

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R 010131Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044690

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM UNDER SECRETARY-DESIGNATE COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EMIN, BL, LN

SUBJECT: TIN

REF: LA PAZ 996

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR SUGGESTION AND
THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS IN REFTEL. THERE IS SOME MERIT IN A
U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO AN INTERNATIONAL BUFFER STOCK IF THE
BUFFER STOCK COULD BE OPERATED IN A MANNER TO HELP BOTH
PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS BY REDUCING PEAK PRICES AS WELL AS
SUPPORTING FLOOR PRICES.

2. AT PRESENT, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED NO
LEGISLATION TO SEEK DISPOSAL AUTHORITY FOR ANY COMMODITY
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PENDING AN INTERAGENCY AND OMB REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.
H. R. 2723, WHICH SEEKS AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPOSAL OF
30,000 TONS OF TIN, WAS INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN
MOLLOHAN AND IS NOT AN ADMINISTRATION MEASURE. IF THE
ADMINISTRATION DECIDES TO SEEK DISPOSAL FROM THE GSA TIN
STOCKPILE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL EVEN WITHOUT THE COMPLICATION OF ARGUING FOR A

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUFFER STOCK.

3. THE DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING, HOWEVER, OUR LONG RUN STRATEGY REGARDING COMMODITY PRICE STABILIZATION. WE ARE CONSIDERING BOTH INTERNATIONAL BUFFER STOCKS AND COORDINATED USE OF NATIONAL STOCKS AS PRICE STABILIZING TOOLS. AS PART OF THIS REVIEW, WE WILL GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A POLICY OF U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL BUFFER STOCKS.

4. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, ACCEPT THE BOLIVIAN VIEW THAT USG TACTICS SINCE JOINING THE ITC HAVE BEEN CONFRONTATIONAL. THE USG HAS THROUGHOUT APPROACHED MEETINGS OF THE ITC PRAGMATICALLY AND IN GOOD FAITH WITH THE PURPOSE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS OF THE ITA. THIS IS EVIDENCED, WE BELIEVE, BY US AGREEMENT IN OCTOBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE ON COSTS AND PRICES, NOVEMBER REVIEW OF PRODUCTION COSTS AND BY OUR WILLINGNESS IN DECEMBER TO ACCEPT THE COUNCIL'S PRICE RANGES INCREASES, EVEN THOUGH WE DISAGREED WITH THOSE INCREASES ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS. FINALLY, US AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THREE SPECIAL ITC WORKING PARTY MEETINGS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT ITC CRISIS CAN HARDLY BE CONSIDERED CONFRONTATIONAL.

5. YOU MAY ASSURE THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE NEW UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION WILL EXAMINE BUFFER STOCK POLICY IN A SERIOUS, FLEXIBLE AND OPEN MANNER, WITHOUT COMMITMENT AT THIS STAGE AS TO HOW THE EXAMINATION WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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COME OUT. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT BUFFER STOCKS SHOULD BE OPERATED IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS.
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NNN

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